



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,185	01/22/2002	Mark A. Lewellen	LEWELLEN.1076	4466

24038 7590 05/06/2003  
MARTIN & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
P O BOX 548  
CARTHAGE, MO 64836-0548

EXAMINER
----------

TRIEU, VAN THANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2632

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

4

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,185

Applicant(s)

LEWELLEN, MARK A.

Examiner

Van T Trieu

Art Unit

2632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10-14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Pala et al** [US 6,304,173].

Regarding claim 1, the claimed first video monitor (the monitor 24 in a first position, the second monitor 76 or the monitor 24 hinges downward on cover 140 to be visible to a driver, see Figs. 1 and 9, col. 3, lines 1-3 and 17-19 and col. 6, lines 23-25); and the second video monitor (the monitor 24 in the second position 24a, 24d or the monitor 24 can hang downward and rest against the center console 138 to be viewable by passengers in the rear seats 62, 63, see Figs. 1, 5, 6 and 8, col. 3, lines 3-6, col. 5, lines 49-51 and col. 6, lines 7-21); and the vehicle interface (the front and rear input controls 78, 80, gear position input 90 and entertainment inputs 70, 74, 86, 88 and 89 send signals along a control bus 82 to a video switch 84 which selectively routes video signal to the monitor 24, 24a and 76, see Figs. 1 and 2, col. 3, lines 38); and the plurality of video cameras (cameras 50, 116 and 117, see Figs. 5 and 6); and the video switching mechanism (video switcher 84, see Fig. 2); and the first monitor source selector (the switcher 84 is adapted to select among video signals from the cameras 50, 116, or 117

Art Unit: 2632

to display on the monitor 24 in the first position or 76 to view by the driver, see Fig. 2, col. 3, lines 36-46 and col. 4, lines 35-38); and the first default source (the initial position of the cameras 50, 116, or 117 and the default or initial view provided to the monitor 24 when in the first position, see col. 4, lines 40-43); and the second monitor source selector (the user input controls 78, 80 and/or the video switcher 84 is used to select video input from any video cameras 50, 116, 117 and any entertainment programs 70, 74, 86, 88 and 89 that not displayed on the monitor 24a or 24d, see Figs. 2, 5 and 6, col. 3, lines 10-35, col. 4, lines 20-27 and col. 5, lines 1-9); and second default source (the user-defined default or initial selection, see col. 5, lines 4-9).

Regarding claim 2, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above, the input controls for the first default source when the monitor 24 in the first position and for the second default source when the monitor 24a in the second position.

Regarding claim 5, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above, the reverse gear input 90.

Regarding claim 6, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 7, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above, and including the user input controls 78 and 80 and video switcher 84 for changing the default source.

Art Unit: 2632

Regarding claim 10, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 7 above.

Regarding claim 11, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 7 above.

Regarding claim 12, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above, wherein the monitor 24a is in a second position.

Regarding claim 13, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 12 above.

Regarding claim 14, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 17, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 14 above.

Regarding claim 18, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 17 above.

Art Unit: 2632

Regarding claim 20, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 1 above.

Regarding claim 23, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 20 above.

Regarding claim 24, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 6 and 20 above.

Regarding claim 28, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 25 above.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pala et al** [US 6,304,173] in view of **Lee** [US 5,680,123].

Regarding claim 3, **Pala et al** fails to disclose the source selector displays on the video monitor a video output of a video camera disposed to provide a view of the left side of

Art Unit: 2632

the vehicle in response to a left turn signal on the vehicle being activated on the vehicle driver interface. However **Pala et al** teaches that the vehicle interface of gear position input 90 send signals to the control bus 82 for automatically displaying rear view whenever the gear is in reverse. The left and right cameras 116 and 117 are for capturing images of left and right sides of the vehicle 22, which are send to the control bus 82 to a video switcher 84 for selectively displaying the captured images to a driver monitor 24 or 76, see Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6, col. 3, lines 1-3 and 17-46. **Lee** suggests that a vehicle monitoring system includes a turn signal control switch 42 being used for selecting display at least one of the cameras 12, 14, or 16 to view of the surrounding regions A, B, or C surrounding regions of the vehicle 22. The left camera 12 is selected when the turn signal control switch 42 is put into a down position 43B to represent a left turn. The right camera 16 is selected when the turn signal control switch 42 is put into an up position 43A to represent a right turn, see Figs. 1A and 3-6, abstract, col. 1, lines 58-67, col. 2, lines 1-7, col. 3, lines 25-67. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the right and left turn signals for activating the respected cameras to be view by a driver of **Lee** to the control bus of **Pala et al** since the reverse signal is used to activate the rear camera for viewing by the driver whenever the gear is in reverse. Adding turn signals to detect the blind spot alongside a driver's vehicle can be observed by the driver in response to a right or left turn signal, and to increase safety to the traffic vehicle.

Art Unit: 2632

Regarding claim 4, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 1 and 3 above, for the right turn signal.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3, 4 and 7 above.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3, 4 and 14 above.

Regarding claim 19, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 1 and 3-6 above.

Regarding claims 21 and 22, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3, 4 and 20 above.

Regarding claims 26 and 27, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3, 4 and 25 above.

Regarding claim 29, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 1 and 3-6 above.

Art Unit: 2632

***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Yamamoto** discloses a surrounding monitor apparatus for a vehicle comprising a plurality of cameras and a control display device to selectively receive signals from vehicle speed signal, signal switch, other video image outputs, TV for displaying to a driver. [US 6,476,855]

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to primary examiner **Van Trieu** whose telephone number is (703) 308-5220. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. **Danial Wu** can be reached on (703) 308-6730.

The office facsimile number is (703) 872-9314.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Van Trieu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Van Trieu**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Date: 5/1/03**